

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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O R 061445Z DEC 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9735
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 8857

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, TU, EG, LY
SUBJ: MFA VIEW OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO EGYPT

REF: ANKARA 8811

1. SUMMARY: DECEMBER 6 EMBOFF REVIEWED FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S
EGYPTIAN VISIT WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN
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AFFAIRS, FARUK CELILOGLU. CELILOGULU SAID CAGLAYANGIL HAD DECIDED
TO MAKE THE OFTEN-POSTPONED VISIT DESPITE SENSITIVITIES OF LIBYA
AND IRAQ BECAUSE (A) TURKEY WANTED TO IMPROVE ITS BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT AND (B) TURKEY COULD NOT ALLOW
ITS ACTIONS TO BE DICTATED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. GOT SATISFIED WITH
OUTCOME OF VISIT. IT HAD NOT EXPECTED GOE TO REVERSE ITS TRADITIONAL
POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS, BUT NOW HOPES IT WILL BE

MORE ATTUNED TO TURKISH VIEWS. LIBYA HAS MADE ITS UNHAPPINESS KNOWN; IRAQ HAS NOT. NEITHER HAS THREATENED TO SUSPEND PETROLEUM SHIPMENTS. ERBAKAN'S VISIT TO IRAQ AND TURKES' VISIT TO LIBYA PROBABLY SOFTENED RADICAL ARAB REACTION. CELILOGLU CONCLUDED BY ASSERTING THAT ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN CAGLAYANGIL'S DECISIONS TO CONTINUE WITH VISIT WAS GOT VIEW THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE WAS A POSITIVE STEP THAT DESERVED SUPPORT. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND MFA ON MID-EAST SITUATION WOULD BE WELCOME AND MIGHT ALLOW TURKS TO GIVE QUIET, BUT USEFUL SUPPORT TO US POLICIES AND POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DECEMBER 6 EMBOFF DISCUSSED FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO EGYPT WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS FARUK CELILOGLU. CELILOGLU, WHO ACCOMPANIED FONMIN ON HIS VISIT, MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. VISIT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1977 AND POSTPONED SEVERAL TIMES FOR VARIOUS REASONS. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO IMPROVE THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND ALTHOUGH GOT WAS CONCERNED THAT VISIT TO CAIRO AT THIS TIME MIGHT UPSET IRAQ AND LIBYA, CAGLAYANGIL DECIDED TO MAKE VISIT BECAUSE IT COULD NOT ALLOW OTHER COUNTRIES TO DICTATE WHO ITS FRIENDS MIGHT BE.

B. GOT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF VISIT. IT WAS AWARE THAT EGYPT COULD NOT TOTALLY REVERSE ITS TRADITIONAL POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOTS, BUT AS A RESULT OF CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT, CONFIDENTIAL

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GOT EXPECTS THAT CAIRO WILL AT A MINIMUM BE MORE RESTRAINED IN THAT SUPPORT AND AWARE OF TURKISH VIEWS.

C. TURKEY AND EGYPT ARE BOTH POOR COUNTRIES WHO SELL SIMILAR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO THE SAME MARKETS. IT IS THEREFORE VERY DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH A CLOSE AND PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. NEVERTHELESS, THE AGREEMENT SIGNED DURING FONMIN'S VISIT WAS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.

D. EGYPTIANS WERE EXTREMELY HOSPITABLE THROUGHOUT VISIT. CELILOGLU SAID HE HAD NEVER MET A MORE IMPRESSIVE FONMIN THAN ACTING FONMIN GHALI.

E. CONCERNING REPORTS THAT IRAQ AND LIBYA HAD THREATENED TURKEY'S OIL SUPPLY AS A RESULT OF CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT, CELILOGLU SAID TO HIS KNOWLEDGE IRAQ HAD MADE NO COMMENT AT ALL CONCERNING THE VISIT. LIBYA HAD EXPRESSED ITS DISPLEASURE, CELILOGLU SAID, "BUT YOU KNOW THE LIBYANS."

F. VISITS OF DEPRIMINS ERBAKAN AND TURKES TO IRAQ AND LIBYA, RESPECTIVELY, PROBABLY SOFTENED RADICAL ARAB REACTION TO CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT. TURKES' VISIT TO LIBYA HAD BEEN COORDINATED WITH CAGLAYANGIL AND TURKES HAD OFFERED TO POSTPONE TRIP IF CAGLAYANGIL SO DESIRED. CAGLAYANGIL HAD TOLD TURKES TO GO AHEAD.

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O R 061445Z DEC 77
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ERBAKAN HAD NOT COORDINATED HIS TRIP BUT HAD INFORMED THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY WHILE IN SAUDI ARABIA THAT HE WAS GOING TO STOP THROUGH
BAGHDAD. (CELILOGLU SAID THAT HE SOMETIME BEARS THE BRUNT OF
CAGLAYANGIL'S UNHAPPINESS WITH ERBAKAN BECAUSE HE IS OFTEN USED
AS A TWO-WAY CONDUIT FOR POLICY DECISIONS ON MIDDLE EASTERN MATTERS.)
G. DURING MEETING IN CAIRO BETWEEN CAGLAYANGIL AND PLO
REPRESENTATIVE SAIT KEMAL, IT WAS DECIDED THAT PLO OFFICE WOULD
BE OPENED IN ANKARA WITH A RELATIVELY JUNIOR PLO OFFICIAL IN CHARGE
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AND THAT SAIT KEMAL WOULD VISIT ANKARA REGULARLY, PERHAPS ONCE

A MONTH. CELILOGLU SAID DELAY IN ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE RESULTED MAINLY FROM INTERNAL PLO WRANGLING ABOUT WHO WOULD BE THE REPRESENTATIVE. HE SAID REPORTS THAT THE DELAY HAD RESULTED FROM AN ATTEMPT BY THE TURKS TO IMPOSE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS WERE UNTRUE. "WE TRIED THAT AT THE BEGINNING," HE SAID, " BUT IT DIDN'T WORK."

3. AT CONCLUSION OF LONG CONVERSATION, CELILOGLU TOLD EMBOFF THAT A SECONDARY BUT VERY REAL REASON FOR THE DECISION-MADE BY CAGLAYANGIL WITH DEMIREL'S SUPPORT-TO CONTINUE WITH THE CAIRO VISIT DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES IT MIGHT CREATE FOR TURKEY IN HER RELATIONS WITH RADICAL ARAB COUNTRIES, WAS THE BELIEF THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE WAS A POSITIVE STEP THAT DESERVED SUPPORT. CELILOGLU ADDED THAT ANOTHER FACTOR WAS AWARENESS OF US SUPPORT FOR SADAT IN HIS INITIATIVE. CELILOGLU SUGGESTED THAT DURING THE COMING MONTHS, A REGULAR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WOULD BE USEFUL AND HELPFUL. HE SAID GOT COULD NOT BE COUNTED ON TO DO ANYTHING

DRAMATIC OR PUBLIC WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE A REACTION FROM ITS RADICAL ARAB FRIENDS, BUT IT COULD POSSIBLY BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE TO THE US IN QUIET WAYS.

4. COMMENT: CELILOGLU IS NOT A DYNAMIC FORCE WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND DOES HAVE SOME INFLUENCE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL YEARS' RELATIONSHIP WITH EMBOFFS, HE HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OPEN AND FRIENDLY. HE CLEARLY BELIEVES TURKEY'S INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH US INTERESTS. WHILE WE WANT TO UNDERLINE THAT GOT WILL BE UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY PUBLIC STEPS OR POSITIONS WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE THE WRATH OF ITS OIL-SUPPLYING RADICAL ARAB FRIENDS, WE BELIEVE
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IT WILL BE GENERALLY AND QUIETLY SUPPORTIVE OF USG EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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